
2000

City of Milwaukee Urban Atlas

**Summary of Population
and Housing Characteristics**

based on the

2000 U.S. Census

**Prepared by
Long Range Planning
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Introduction

The Milwaukee Urban Atlas summarizes 2000 census data for the City of Milwaukee. It is designed to be a reference document. A section is devoted to each of each of the census topics. Most sections include at least one map; some sections include tables and charts or racial group information. Two tables summarizing all of the census data presented are in the appendix. Census tract data underlying the maps can be found in the Planning and Permits section of the Department of City Development website www.mkedcd.org or in the American FactFinder accessed via the U.S. Census Bureau website www.census.gov.

Summary – 2000 Census Data

- Milwaukee's population declined by five percent between 1990 and 2000
- The City accounted for just under 40 percent of the metropolitan population in 2000, down from 51 percent in 1970.
- The net in migration experienced by the suburban part of the metropolitan area wasn't large enough to offset the net out migration experienced by the City during the 1990s.
- Population increased in some parts of the city because younger households replaced older households.
- The downtown area had a population increase because new housing units were constructed.
- Milwaukee became a minority majority city during the 1990s.
- The growth in the Hispanic and Asian communities was due to in migration. African American growth occurred within the community that was in Milwaukee in 1990.
- The median age of Milwaukee residents increased slightly during the 1990s.
- The age structure of the white population is different than that of the minority population.
- The number of households in the city declined by three percent between 1990 and 2000.
- Average household size declined slightly during the 1990s, but the number of households with six or more members increased.
- The majority of one and two person households were white, the majority of three or more person households were minority.
- Many tracts in the central part of Milwaukee had households that were too large for the housing unit occupied by the household.
- Females headed 43 percent of the households in 2000. Over half of African American households had a female head compared with about 20 percent for Asians.
- The percentage of households that were families continued to decline. The percentage of families that included a married couple also declined.
- Children were more likely to live in a family including only their father in 2000.
- More single person households were male.
- More family households included grandchildren or siblings of the head than previously.
- Minority family households are more likely to include children, grandchildren and other relatives of the head than are white households.
- Fewer residents lived in group housing situations than in the past.
- About half of the City's 2000 residents five years old or older lived in the same house in 1995. Over half of those moving between 1995 and 2000 moved within the City; most of the remainder moved from elsewhere in Wisconsin.
- The majority of persons living outside the United States in 1995 lived in Mexico, Puerto Rico, or an Asian country.
- The majority of Milwaukee residents were born in Wisconsin, but eight percent were born in a foreign country. Asians and Hispanics were most likely to be foreign born. Some of these in migrants may have difficulty coping with language and customs in Milwaukee.

- More residents 25 and older completed high school and college than in 1990. While the graduation rates increased for all racial groups, the gap between white and minority residents' rates grew during the 1990s.
- Labor force participation remained stable, but the unemployment rate increased since 1990. Slightly more women were in the labor force in 2000. More children under 6 lived in households where all parents worked. A lower percentage of minority residents were in the labor force, but they were more likely to be unemployed.
- No industry dominates the employment of City residents. Service industries employ the highest percentage with manufacturing second.
- The majority of City residents had lower paying occupations in 2000.
- The percentage of residents who worked and worked in the City declined between 1990 and 2000. Workers living nearest the city limits were more likely to work outside the City.
- Most workers traveled to work alone in a private vehicle, only central area residents used public transportation.
- Residents living nearest the central part of the city didn't have a private vehicle available for household use.
- City residents generated nearly \$10 billion in personal income in 1999, most from wages or salaries. Median household income increased slightly during the 1990s. The city continued to house the majority of low income households and the minority of high income households.
- The gap between white and minority median household income narrowed during the 1990s. The Asian median nearly equaled the White median. Household incomes are similar for all racial groups living in the same neighborhood.
- The poverty rate declined slightly during the 1990s. The rate for children continues high.
- Minority poverty rates declined during the 1990s, but continued higher than the white rate. The white rate remained stable.
- The number of housing units declined for the first time during the 1990s.
- The percentage of units occupied by owners increased during the 1990s. Ownership rates increased for all racial groups, but the white owner occupancy rate continued the highest.
- New construction during the 1990s increased the number of housing units with four or more bedrooms.
- Housing units with three or more bedrooms were more likely to be owner occupied, in some cases by just one or two persons. Larger households were more likely to rent their housing unit.
- Households headed by persons 65 or older make up a significant portion of the households in some neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are in the process of turning over to younger households.
- The majority of younger households rent their housing unit, while older households own.
- Single family homes were a good investment in Milwaukee during the 1990s, their value increased more than the rate of inflation.
- More single family owners carried mortgages in 2000 than in 1990. Households with elderly heads were not as likely to have a mortgage, decreasing their housing cost greatly.
- White single family owner occupants lived in higher value housing than minority single family owner occupants. The percentage of income spent for single family owner occupied housing was similar across all racial groups.
- Median gross rental cost decreased during the 1990s when inflation was considered.
- The percent of income spent for rent decreased slightly.
- Rental costs vary by race, but all races except African American spent a similar percentage of their income for housing.